25. (Amended) A Web Browser program to be executed by an information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said program comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on said telephone number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said telephone number.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-21 and 23-25 remain active in the application. Applicant clarifies the claims to recite that "line number" is —telephone number—.

In the Office Action dated August 27, 2001, Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407 (Smith *et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,926 (Levac *et al.*). The new examiner has withdrawn the rejection asserted by the previous examiner so that the rejection on page 3 of the Office Action,

with its very brief explanation, is all that needs to be responded to at this time. The rejection is non-final.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

To briefly review the invention for the new examiner: a communication link may be established between an ***information processing apparatus*** (such as, for example, a personal computer 1 in Applicant's Fig. 1) and a ***predetermined apparatus*** (such as fax information providing apparatus 7, telephone set 8, PC-communication host adapter 9 and/or voice-mail handling apparatus 10) using ***information*** (such as an HTML web page) that is downloaded from an ***information providing apparatus*** (such as IP server 5 in Applicant's FIGS. 1 and 13) to the information processing apparatus.

Thus, it is possible to designate a communication method within information downloaded in an initial communication. For example, in the non-limiting embodiment illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, it is feasible to specify, in advance, a communication method to communicate between personal computer 1 and any of devices 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

Independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 17-20 and 23-25 recite that the downloaded ***information*** includes not only a ***telephone number***[2] but also a ***designation of a communication method***[3] that defines communications with the predetermined apparatus. Examples of communications methods include http, ftp and telnet. These claims define inventions in a variety of statutory categories, based on the proposition that the information specifies *not only* a ***telephone number***

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[2]In a preferred embodiment to which the claims should not be limited, the telephone number may be delineated by tags such as <TEL> ... .</TEL>; *see* Applicant's specification, paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27.

[3]*See* Applicant's specification; paragraph bridging pages 27 and 28; the claimed ***communication method*** is also referred to as a "communication procedure" or a "connection type." Examples include protocols such as ftp and telnet that are not inherently adapted to include hypertext/hyperlink tags; *see* specification at page 29, lines 2-11.

for a line leading to a predetermined apparatus, but also the ***communication method*** that defines communication with the predetermined apparatus on that line. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not disclosed in or properly suggested by the cited references, considered either individually or in any reasonably motivated combination.

In contrast to the present invention, Smith *et al.* merely disclose a document delivery solution in which a Private Uniform Resource Locator (PURL) identifies a document, an intended recipient of the document, and "other parameters specific to the delivery process."[4] Apparently the "parameters specific to the delivery process" relate to one or more of the following descriptions:

> At the most basic level, a document delivery solution must enable documents to be directed to customers by the producers of those documents, or "pushed". The portable document delivery system 160 is designed so that different types of recipients operating on different computer systems, with different operating systems, E-mail systems, and document types can all benefit from receiving, reading, and using electronic portable documents. The various design ***parameter*** categories that the portable document delivery systems 160a,b is adapted for includes ***primary computer systems*** (e.g. PCs, Workstations, Servers), ***primary operating systems*** (e.g. Macintosh, Win 3.1, Win '95, NT, Unix, OS/2), ***electronic mail systems*** (e.g. Microsoft, cc:Mail, Groupwise, Notes, Eudora), ***document types*** (e.g. paper, Postscript, Quark, WordPerfect, Excel), and ***user types*** (e.g. MIS, Legal, Financial, Consumers/Home, MarketingCommunication (MarCom)).[5]

> Additional functionality and customization is one click away. During the addressing process, users of senders 16 are free to customize the options of their send by invoking advanced options. By default, each send will reuse the existing ***parameters*** for sending documents. Users of senders 16 can also use the advanced options user interface 192 to customize their delivery options, including, for example, ***security options and receipt requirements.*** For example, if the user 16 desires to customize the security options, including private and or public key encryption, the user simply checks a "Public Encrypt" or "Private Encrypt" option. Similarly, the user can select the "Notify on Receipt" option, thus informing the BFD server 12 to confirm delivery when the document is actually received.[6]

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[4]Smith *et al.*; Abstract, lines 5-6 as cited in the August 27, 2001 Office Action.

[5]Id.; paragraph bridging columns 10 and 11 (emphasis added).

[6]Id.; column 13, lines 19-32 (emphasis added).

> In addition to encoding user information and document information with the URL, the server also encodes delivery ***parameters, or transaction identifiers*** in the URL. Each generated personal URL (PURL) is then forwarded to each intended recipient 320. The recipient is notified 325 that a given document has been sent to him. This typically has the form of an e-mail message which includes a private URL. The recipient, using the PURL 330 and the Web, accesses the document.[7]

The final quotation appears to be the most direct indication of the nature of the "parameters specific to the delivery process" mentioned in the abstract. The parameters appear to be merely transaction identifiers. In any event, none of the foregoing descriptions disclose or suggest the ***designation of a communication method*** that is required by independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 17-20 and 23-25. That is, none of Smith's designations of computer systems, operating systems, email systems, document types, user types, security options, receipt requirements, or transaction identifiers fulfil the requirement for a ***designation of a communication method*** that is required by these claims. Again, a communication method would be exemplified by http, ftp and telnet, and not by the "parameters" (transaction identifiers) mentioned by Smith *et al.*

The Office Action admits:

> Smith does not specifically teach the link specifying "a line assigned to a line connected". [sic]

This cryptic admission is interpreted as meaning that Smith *et al.* do not disclose what is claimed, for example, in Claim 4: "a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination." For this teaching, the examiner is compelled to resort to citing a secondary reference, to Levac *et al.* The Office Action asserts that Levac *et al.* disclose:

> ...a messaging system with multiples lines assigned to connect [see abstract: communication devices] via parameters specified within the message.

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[7]Id.; column 15, lines 34-42 (emphasis added).

Levac *et al.* merely convert a message to a form appropriate to email, as distinguished from a bulletin board, as distinguished from a message marquee, and so forth. Levac *et al.* do not specify a telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as claimed.

The Office Action appears to entirely miss the point of the *line numbers* (now clarified as *telephone numbers*) being assigned to lines connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination, as claimed. The claimed "information" includes both:

(1) a *telephone number assigned to a line* connected to the predetermined apparatus

and

(2) a *designation of a communication method* to be used on that line.

Thus, the claimed arrangement permits a choice of more than one communication method for each line, a capability that Levac *et al.* clearly do not contemplate since they are only concerned with distinguishing among email, bulletin boards, message marquees and so forth, and not with multiple ways of communicating by email, multiple ways of communicating by bulletin board, multiple ways of communicating by message marquees, etc.

Finally, in addition to the technical factual distinctions noted above, Applicants submit that the two references are not properly combined under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Office Action's explanation of the motivation for combining references is murky. However, the Office Action appears to focus on Smith's "link destination encoding" as supposedly enabling connection of Levac's various devices and protocols using standard encoding of "the parameters" using HTML and PURL and enabling access and control using browser based application.

However, a careful analysis of the references shows that Smith's PURL identifiers are definitely not "standard encoding" as the Office Action implies; therefore, there is no suggestion to encode Levac's "parameters" using Smith's PURLs. Further, Smith does not use HTML in

the same way as PURL, but merely mentions use of HTML browsers, which are not particularly relevant to either the Levac *et al.* patent or to the claims at issue.

More importantly, Smith *et al.* are concerned with sending a PURL identifier to an intended user so that the user can retrieve a document located at the PURL; in contrast, Levac *et al.* are concerned with directly communicating a message to plural intended recipients on a variety of media, and thus Levac *et al.* adopt an approach that is almost the *opposite* to that of Smith *et al.* Therefore, if anything, the references actually *teach away from* being combined with each other.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references neither disclose nor properly suggest Claims 1, 4, 7, 17-20 and 23-25, and the references are in any event not properly combined under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and their dependent claims are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 10-11 and 13-15 were previously placed in independent form, and include the limitations of *original* Claim 7. (Independent Claims 10-11 and 13-15 do *not* include the limitation discussed above, concerning designation of communication methods). Thus, Claims 10-11 and 13-15 are submitted to be patentable for reasons other than the designation of a communication method in information that is downloaded to an information processing apparatus. These reasons are discussed as follows.

The Office Action does not even mention the limitations in these claims. The cited references are not believed to disclose Claim 10's selection of one of a plurality of line numbers associated with a "predetermined position" (which may be a hypertext or hyperlink position on a display). Likewise, it is not believed that the cited references disclose Claim 11's number adder that adds digits necessary for international communication when the claimed "predetermined apparatus" is in a foreign country. Further, it is not believed that the cited references disclose

the display of an estimated charge for a telephone call needed to communicate with the "predetermined apparatus" as recited in Claim 13. Finally, the combination of details of the functional limitations recited in Claims 14 and 15 are not believed to be disclosed in or properly suggested by the cited references.

Applicant submits that the foregoing explanations clearly demonstrate that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made, and that the pending claims are therefore allowable. If, however, the examiner persists in rejecting any claim, Applicant earnestly requests that the examiner specifically identify, by figure number and reference numeral and/or by column and line number, which items in the cited art are being relied upon to teach each claim limitation. This specific correlation between disclosed items and claim limitations is needed in order to expedite examination and provide Applicant a fair opportunity to evaluate any issues and respond accordingly.

In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and that the case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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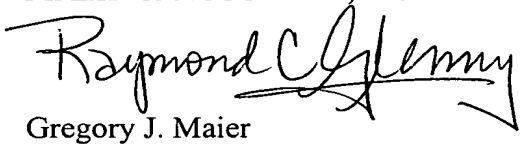

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ATTACHMENT

SHOWING CHANGES TO APPLICATION

1. (Twice Amended) A recording medium configured to record information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, wherein said information includes:

a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination; and

a designation of a communication method defining communication with said predetermined apparatus via said line.

2. (Twice Amended) A recording medium according to claim 1 wherein said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and said [line] telephone number is described along with a [line] telephone-number tag showing that what is described by said [line] telephone number is a telephone line.

3. (cancelled)

4. (Twice Amended) A transmission medium configured to transmit information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, wherein said information includes:

a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as a link destination; and

a designation of a communication method defining communication with said predetermined apparatus via said line.

5. (Twice Amended) A transmission medium according to claim 4 wherein said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and said [line] telephone number is described along with a [line] telephone-number tag showing that what is described by said [line] telephone number is a telephone line.

6. (cancelled)

7. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus, governed by the communication method, and based on the [line] telephone number if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number.

8. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein: said information is described in an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language);

said [line] telephone number is described along with a [line] telephone number tag showing that what is described thereby is a telephone line; and

a recognition device judges whether or not said [line] telephone number is associated with said predetermined position based on said [line] telephone-number tag.

9. (cancelled)

10. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display;

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number; and

e) a [line] telephone-number selector configured to select one from a plurality of [line] telephone numbers in case plural [line] telephone numbers are associated with said predetermined position.

11. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display;

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number; and

e) a number adder configured to add a number required for international communication to a [line] telephone number in case said [line] telephone number is a [line] telephone number of a foreign country.

12. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 7 further including a confirmation device configured to confirm that a communication link with said predetermined apparatus shall be established.

13. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number;

wherein said display also displays an estimated charge for a telephone call to communicate with said predetermined apparatus.

14. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number;

wherein:

said receiver receives said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus by way of a predetermined network after a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been established;

said communication controller establishes a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus after a line connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been cut off; and

said communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network is reestablished after communication with said predetermined apparatus has been completed.

15. (Twice Amended) An information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number, if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number;

wherein:

said receiver receives said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus by way of a predetermined network after a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network has been established; and

in case an attempt made by said communication controller to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus after cutting off a line connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network ends in a failure, either an attempt to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus is again made or said

communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network is re-established.

16. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 15 wherein, in case said attempt made by said communication controller to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus ends in a failure, said information processing apparatus is capable of selecting either processing to again make an attempt to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined apparatus or processing to re-establish said communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to said predetermined network.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for processing incoming information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said method comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link with the predetermined apparatus based on said [line] telephone number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said [line] telephone number.

18. (Twice Amended) A recording medium configured to store a computer program to be executed by an information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said program comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on said [line] telephone number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said [line] telephone number.

19. (Twice Amended) A transmission medium configured to transmit a computer program to be executed by an information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said program comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on said [line] telephone number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said [line] telephone number.

20. (Twice Amended) An information providing apparatus comprising:

a recording medium configured to store information described in a language usable for describing link destinations; and

a transmitter configured to transmit said information in response to a request, wherein said information stored in said recording medium includes:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as said link destination; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus.

21. (Twice Amended) An information providing apparatus according to Claim 20 wherein:

said information is described in a HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language); and

said [line] telephone number is described along with a [line] telephone number tag indicating that a description thereof is a telephone line.

22. (cancelled)

23. (Twice Amended) An information processing system comprising:

a) an information providing apparatus configured to provide information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said information providing apparatus including:

a recording medium for storing information including (1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus as said link destination and (2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

a transmitter configured to transmit said information in response to a request received from an information processing apparatus,

b) said information processing apparatus, configured to receive and process said information, said information processing apparatus including:

a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by said information providing apparatus;

a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

a communication controller configured to establish a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on the [line] telephone number if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number.

24. (Amended) An Internet appliance apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receiver configured to receive said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, the information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus;

b) a display configured to display said information received by said receiver;

c) a command device configured to specify a predetermined position in said information displayed by said display; and

d) a communication controller configured to establish a communication link with the predetermined apparatus, governed by the communication method, and based on the [line] telephone number if said predetermined position specified by said command device is associated with said [line] telephone number.

25. (Amended) A Web Browser program to be executed by an information processing apparatus configured to process information described in a language usable for describing link destinations, said program comprising:

receiving and displaying said information transmitted by an information providing apparatus, said information including:

1) a [line] telephone number assigned to a line connected to a predetermined apparatus; and

2) a designation of a communication method defining communication with the predetermined apparatus; and

establishing a communication link connecting said information processing apparatus to the predetermined apparatus based on said [line] telephone number if a predetermined position on said displayed information is indicated and said predetermined position is associated with said [line] telephone number.